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CLAIMS

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2 1. A computer-implemented method of visually reporting the status of a resource

- having one or more status metrics associated therewith, said resource
- 4 executing within a compute infrastructure, said method comprising:
- 5 generating a color changeable status icon associated with said resource;
- associating a different color to said color changeable status icon to reflect the
- 7 underlying state of said one or more status metrics;
- 8 comparing said one or more status metrics to a plurality of threshold
- 9 conditions to determine the underlying state of said one or more status
- 10 metrics;
- displaying the appropriate color of said application status icon based on said
- 12 comparison.
- 13 2. The method as in claim 1 wherein wherein the resource is used as a container
- for important metrics to be managed by the resource.
- 15 3. The method as in claim 1 wherein wherein the status icon is provided on a
- display device associated with a device running Microsoft's Windows-based
- operating system; said icon is displayed as part of the Windows System Tray.
- 18 · 4. The method as in claim 1 wherein the status icon is an iconized (minimized)
- Windows application, or any application in a windowing environment (e.g. X
- Windows).

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5. The method as in claim 1 wherein the metrics are configurable.

- 2 6. The method as in claim 1 wherein the conditions that trigger the changed state
- of a metric are configurable.
- 7. The method as in claim 1 wherein the resource can manage other instances of
- 5 itself, as a container of metrics or other instances of the resource.
- 8. The method as in claim 1 wherein the specific colors of the status icon
- 7 represent multiple levels of severity conditions.
- 8 9. The method as in claim 1 wherein the specific shape or image of the status
- 9 icon represents multiple levels of severity conditions.
- 10. The method as in claim 1 wherein the status icon is modifiable and animated.
- 11. The method as in claim 1 wherein a click (or drilldown) on the icon shows at
- least one list of icons that contain either at least one metric, or at least one icon
- representing another instance of the application (which may be reflecting more
- applications or more metrics).
- 15 12. The method as in claim 1 wherein the one or more metrics are determined as a
- result of running tests on a compute infrastructure.
- 17 13. The method as in claim 1 wherein a single test can aggregate the results of
- multiple important items, into a metric of higher importance (e.g. Service
- 19 Level Compliance).

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1 14. The method as in claim 1 wherein said one or more metrics are the result of

- 2 queries to a predefined dynamic updatable database.
- 3 15. The method as in claim 1 wherein the display name of the test, as viewed by
- 4 the user, can be different from the actual test name as required to gather
- 5 information.
- 6 16. The method as in claim 1 wherein the details describing the test and thresholds
- 7 are configurable.
- 8 17. The method as in claim 1 wherein the contact information including but not
- 9 limited to a business owner and the a trouble ticket assignee is displayable.
- 10 18. The method as in claim 1 wherein an Alert, Alarm or Fault is associated with
- each metric, coming from one of many trouble ticket systems.
- 12 19. The method as in claim 1 wherein the status of the Alert, Alarm or Fault is
- tracked, including but not limited to Alert Level, Priority, Creation Data,
- 14 Ticket Number, Assignee.
- 15 20. The method as in claim 1 wherein the historical performance of the metric can
- be observed.
- 17 21. The method as in claim 1 wherein multiple levels of historical performance
- can be observed (e.g. hourly, weekly, monthly).
- 19 22. The method as in claim 1 wherein the status icon can be located anywhere on
- 20 the display device.

- 1 23. The method as in claim 1 wherein the status icon consists of graphics, text,
- video, audio or a combination thereof.